

2024 Big Country Baseball Leagues LOCAL Rules

In addition to the Texas Teenage Baseball (TTAB) rules, the following rules as adopted by the Big Country Baseball Board, will govern play in the Big Country Baseball Leagues for the regular season going forth unless amended by the residing board.

1. **Time Limits:** There is a one and a half 1.5 hour time limit on games in the 8U, 10U and 12U divisions and a 2 hour time limit in the 14U division. No new inning will be started after the teams have been playing for 1.5 hours. There will be a 10:00 p.m. time limit on games in the 8U, 10U and 12U divisions. No new innings will be started after 10:00 p.m. If the coaches both agree, this rule can be suspended in the event of a tie game and both teams will be allowed to finish the game-however many innings that takes. The 10:00 p.m. deadline rule will not be in effect during tournament play.
2. **Less than 9 Players:** There will be no minimum number of players required in order for a team to begin play. If a team starts the game with less than 9 players, they will not be charged an out for the players who are not in the batting order when it is that team's turn at bat. If the game has begun with less than 9 players on a team and one of that team's players shows up late, he can not begin play until the half inning during which he arrived is over. If he shows up while his team is in the field after play during that half inning has begun, he can not play until his team is at bat and goes to the bottom of the batting order. If he shows up when his team is at bat after that half inning has started, he doesn't get to bat and can't begin play until his team takes the field. A manager must announce to the umpire and opposing manager when a player has arrived after play has begun.
3. **Minimum Play Time:** Each player must play a minimum of 2 innings in the field and have one at bat. If a player does not get to play the minimum of 2 innings on defense and one at bat, that player must start the next game and manager will need to notify the other coaches. If a manager violates this rule, he will be suspended for 1 game, unless the game is shortened due to 10 run rule (this includes no coaching from the stands or sidelines). The minimum play rule will not apply to a player who arrives to the game late. A manager may bench a player for valid disciplinary reasons, which are furnished in writing to the umpire and residing board president, and the manager will not be held to divisions, though the manager should try to play all players in line with the above.
4. **PlayOff To Determine Standing:** If at the end of the regular season 2 teams are tied for first place in the league, a single elimination playoff game will be scheduled at a neutral site to determine the first and second spot standings. If more than 2 teams are tied for first place in the league, a double elimination play off tournament will be held to determine first and second place teams. A play off game (or tournament in the event of a three way or more tie) will be scheduled far enough after the end of regular season or make-up games to allow each team to have all its pitchers available in terms of rule required rest period. The 1.5 hour time limit will not be in effect for play games/tournaments. Both teams are responsible for umpires and field playoff site.
5. **Scorekeeper:** The home team is responsible for furnishing an official scorekeeper.
6. **Run Rule:** In 2022 we adopted a run rule effect. It will go as listed: 20 runs after 3 innings (ex: 22-2), 15 runs after 4 innings (ex: 18-3), and 10 run runs after 5 innings (ex: 10-0). Once this is

reached, the game will be called. INNING Run Rule: 8U- 7 runs per inning, 10U- 10 runs per inning.

7. Base Coaches: Base coaches may be either players (must have helmet on) or adult coaches.
8. Player Discipline: If any player is disciplined by the manager and benched or other action taken which would affect the time he is allowed to play, the reason for the disciplinary action shall be put in writing by the manager and given to the residing Board President, who will review the written statement with the Board of Directors of the Big Country League.
9. Pick-Up Players: Pick-up players selected from other teams by the teams going to tournaments will be selected on a rotating basis. The first-place team will pick the first pickup player then the 2nd place and so forth. If a player refuses to go play with a team, he shall not be picked up by any other team advancing.
10. Game Rescheduling: If a scheduling conflict develops regarding a scheduled game, or if weather conditions require a game to be rescheduled, the team managers are required to reschedule the game and notify the Board President of the rescheduled game time within 48 hours of the original game date, however the game does not have to be played within 48 hours of the original game date, but it must be scheduled to play. A rescheduled game must be played on the rescheduled date and time. If a team does not show up for the rescheduled game, that team will take a forfeit. The only way a rescheduled game can be rescheduled again will be due to rain/weather. For all school related rescheduling, please try to give a 48-hour advance notice so all players can be notified. While we can not control the weather, please try to give a 2-hour notice if your field is too wet to play on or in case of rain. If for some reason, the 2 team managers can not agree on a date to play the game, the BCB Board President will schedule the game and whoever does not show up to play will receive a forfeit.
11. Protest on a Game Ending Play: If a coach wants to protest a play, which is a game ending play, the protest must be made at the time of the play. A formal protest shall be typed up and sent to the BCB Board President within 24 hours and it will be handled by the protest committee.
12. Protest Committee: Committee consists of one member assigned from each Big Country Baseball town (Ballinger, Bronte and Miles) to vote on the protest. Any ties are broken by the residing Board President.
13. Head First Sliding: No head first sliding will be allowed, except for a "dive back" to a base. A "dive back" is no more than 5 feet from a passed base. This rule does not apply to the 14U division.
14. Balks: Discuss at the plate meeting and all parties will understand and agree on the rule before the game starts. The umpire will give 1 warning per pitcher (not per team) on a balk thrown, then after the warning if the pitcher throws another balk the umpire will call the balk and the balk rules will be followed.
15. Pitch Count: The home team will be responsible for keeping the pitch count for both teams. A FOUL BALL IS A PITCH. Each home team coach is responsible for turning in a picture of the pitch count for both teams within 24 hours of their game to chat set up by Maggie Stokes (432) 269-1356. All pitching rules will stay the same as posted in the 2024-2025 TTA rule book. Per TTAB 2019 this rule shall be added: The pitch count statistician is required to stop play immediately to notify the umpire when the pitcher has reached his pitch count maximum for the day or in an inning. Therefore there shall be no forfeit due to pitch count.
16. Health Regulations: If a player or coach comes down with a sickness, please make sure he or she is fever free for 24 hours before returning to a game or practice.

17. For 12U the distance between the pitcher's home and home plate will be 47.5 feet.